Haryana Urban Development Authority for construction of a toll plaza at Delhi-Haryana border on National Highways-8. The matter has been taken up with the State Government by NHAI and the decision of the Government of Haryana is awaited. In anticipation of approval, the concessionaire has started work at site.

National Highway between Vallarpadam and Kalamassery

1021. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of the Kerala Government seeking sanction for National Highway project between Vallarpadam and Kalamassery to link with Vallarpadam Trans-shipment Terminal is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the sanction is likely to be accorded;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala have sought some engineering solutions from the National Highways Authority to reduce certain environmental impact; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider to extend the assistance requested for?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No National Highway project from the Government of Kerala for linking Vallarpadam and Kalamassery has been received. However, Cochin Port Trust has requested the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for NH connectivity to Vallarpadam International container Trans-shipment Terminal.

(b) It is too early to indicate the time frame for sanction.

(c) and (d) The NHAI has approached the Kerala Costal Zone Management Authority for Costal Regulation Zone's (CRZ) clearance. The Government of Kerala has recommended for CRZ's clearance to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India, Further action depends on the response from the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Bifurcation of MMD

1022. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands have been made to bifurcate the MMD (Mercantile Marine Department) under the Directorate General of Shipping;

(b) whether it is a fact that MMD has been delaying clearances of small firms all over the country;

(c) if so, what are the remedial steps proposed by Government to ensure that MMD gives the same priority and efficiency to small firms as it routinely does for large shipping firms; and

(d) the steps proposed to outsource the work of MMD for more efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. However, recently the Government have approved setting up of two new Regional Offices of the Mercantile Marine Departments at Kochi and Kandla, and new district level Offices at Kandla, Paradip, New Mangalore and Haldia.

(b) and (c) There is no delay in clearances of small firms anywhere in the country. All the rules and regulations have been published in the (www.dgshipping.com) website and they are updated from time to time. Online contact forms have been put on the website so that in case of any delay, firms/companies, irrespective of the size and composition, could directly take up any matter with the Directorate General of Shipping at the top level for expediting clearances. There is no question of any delay caused to any firms because of its size or constitution.

(d) Outsourcing of MMD work in respect of some of Survey and Inspection works outside India, mother Surveys for all Indian ships, majority of safety construction surveys etc. have already been done in order to improve overall performance of Indian Maritime Administration.

Over-Bridge at Gundugolanu

1023. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the demand of the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh for a pedestrian over-bridge at Gundugolanu on NH-5;

(b) whether NHAI is delaying in taking the forum into confidence;

(c) the steps proposed for a fresh review of the entire demand; and

(d) the reasons for not taking appropriate action in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The demand of the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh to provide pedestrian